

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-8 have been amended, and claims 9-20 have been added. Thus, claims 1-20 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Initially, in item 4 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner kindly indicated that claims 3 and 7-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, new independent claim 13 constitutes a combination of original claims 1 and 3; new independent claim 19 constitutes a combination of original claims 1 and 7; and new independent claim 20 constitutes a combination of original claims 1 and 8. New dependent claims 14-18 have also been added to depend from claim 13 and set forth the features of original claims 2 and 4-6, respectively, as well as additional features. It is noted that the claim language of the new claims 13-20 has been slightly revised relative to the original claims in view of U.S. practice, but the substance of the claims rendering these claims allowable is unchanged.

In items 1-4 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohira et al. (U.S. 6,804,365); and claims 2 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohira et al. These rejections are believed moot in view of the amendments to claim 1, and it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are clearly inapplicable to claims 1-12, for the following reasons.

With exemplary reference to the drawing figures, claim 1 sets forth a support structure of a loudspeaker unit, comprising: a loudspeaker cabinet 20 having an opening 20a at which a front side of a loudspeaker unit 10 is to be located; an anchor member 31 to be connected to a backside of the loudspeaker unit 10; a supporting member 32 arranged to support the anchor member 31 inside the loudspeaker cabinet 20; a positioning member 33 configured to positioned the supporting member 32 in the loudspeaker cabinet 20; and a cushioning member 34 fitted between the supporting member 32 and at least one of the positioning member 33 and the anchor member

31; wherein the loudspeaker unit 10 is fastened to the loudspeaker cabinet 20 through the anchor member 31, the supporting member 32 and the cushioning member 34.

Thus, according to claim 1 as amended, the loudspeaker unit 10 is supported in the loudspeaker cabinet 20 so as to be disposed in a floating state in the loudspeaker cabinet by being fastened to the loudspeaker cabinet 20 through the anchor member 31, the supporting member 32 and the cushioning member 34. These three members (i.e. the anchor member 31, the support member 32 and the cushioning member 34) are arranged to support the loudspeaker unit 10 in the floating state and, through the use of these members, vibrations which would otherwise be transmitted from the loudspeaker unit to the loudspeaker cabinet are almost perfectly eliminated. The bearing force for bearing (i.e., supporting) the loudspeaker unit is provided by the anchor member 31, which is connected to the backside of the loudspeaker unit 10, being supported by the supporting member 32 and the cushioning member 34.

In contrast to the present invention of claim 1, in the Ohira et al. patent (U.S. 6,804,365), a rear side of the speaker unit 10 is supported in the loudspeaker cabinet 20 by the anchor 30 which serves as an imaginary (or virtual) ground and a gasket cushion 43. In the rejection, the Examiner considered element 42 of Ohira et al. as an anchor member, and element 30 of Ohira et al. as a supporting member. However, as clear from the specification of Ohira et al., element 30 thereof represents an anchor serving as an imaginary ground, and element 42 represents, not an anchor member, but merely a plastic plate which couples a yoke 12 with anchor 30. Moreover, in the Ohira et al. configuration, the speaker unit has considerable bearing force against the front side of the speaker unit, which bearing force acts on the cabinet through only the gasket cushion (not through the anchor) from the front side of the speaker unit. As a result, vibrations transmitted to the front side of the speaker unit are not sufficiently absorbed and are transmitted to the cabinet 20.

In the present invention, on the other hand, since the loudspeaker unit 10 and the anchor member 31 are supported in the loudspeaker cabinet 20 through the supporting member 32 and the cushioning member 34 in a floating state, there is hardly any bearing force of the loudspeaker

unit 10 against the loudspeaker cabinet 20 and, accordingly, vibrations are essentially not transmitted from the front side of the loudspeaker unit 10 to the loudspeaker cabinet 20. In addition, since the vibrations transmitted to the rear side of the loudspeaker unit 10 are efficiently deadened by the anchor member 31, vibrations of the loudspeaker unit 10 are essentially not transmitted either from the front side thereof nor the rear side thereof to the loudspeaker cabinet 20. Thus, vibrations transmitted from the loudspeaker unit 10 to the loudspeaker cabinet 20 are almost perfectly eliminated and the present invention thus enables faithful reproduction of sound by eliminating degradation of the sound quality caused by box-sounding. The Ohira et al. arrangement, on the other hand, cannot fully obtain the effects of preventing degradation of the sound quality caused by box-sounding due to the fact that the anchor member 30 bears on the loudspeaker cabinet 20 via the positioning member portion of the loudspeaker cabinet 20, and the loudspeaker unit 10 itself bears against the front of the loudspeaker cabinet at the periphery of the opening thereof; there are no support members as in the present invention to avoid direct bearing of the anchor member 30 and the speaker unit 10 against the loudspeaker cabinet 20.

Thus, because of the clear distinctions between the present invention of claim 1 and the speaker system of the Ohira et al. patent, it is believed apparent that claim 1 is not anticipated by the Ohira et al. patent. Furthermore, the differences between Ohira et al. and the present invention of claim 1 are such that a person of ordinary skill in the art would clearly not have been motivated to modify the Ohira et al. patent or to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in or otherwise render obvious the present invention of claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as well as claims 2-12 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the dependent claims 2-12 which set forth additional features of the invention and further define the invention over the prior art. For example, claim 2 specifies that the anchor member comprises first and second anchor members that are coupled. Claim 6 specifies that multiple sets of the support structure are arranged within the loudspeaker cabinet. Claim 10 specifies that the opening 20a of the loudspeaker cabinet 20 is

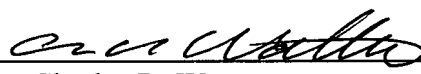
formed in a front wall 20A of the loudspeaker cabinet 20, and that the supporting member 32 extends between the anchor member 31 and a first side wall of the loudspeaker cabinet 20. Claim 11 further requires the loudspeaker cabinet 20 to have a rectangular parallelepiped construction. Claim 12 specifies that the anchor member 31 is heavier in weight than the loudspeaker unit 10, as described in paragraph [0037] of the present specification.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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